Milwaukee School of Engineering

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Baseball Team to Roast It's Former Coach

MSOE's baseball team continually works on new fund raising schemes to finance its annual spring training trip to Mississippi. It's sold sausages, washed cars, and peddled pizzas. But this year's wrinkle may be the best yet.

Sunday evening, February 14, it will be hosting its first annual Valentine's Day Roast and the guest of honor will be none other than former baseball coach and current Dean of Academic Services Len VandenBoom. VandenBoom retired from coaching after guiding MSOE to four straight conference titles and over 100 victories.

Various faculty and staff members will be participating in the jesting, among them Vice-president of Academics Francis Cannon, Dean of Students Patrick Coffey, basketball coach Bob Peterson, baseball coach Don Roberts, Registrar/women's volleyball coach Rich Hamm, former Milwaukee Brewer pitcher Ken Sanders, and current and alumni MSOE baseball players. MSOE Director of Counseling/golf coach Joseph Meloy will be the master of ceremonies.

Tickets for the event are $7.00 for students and $7.50 for non-students. There will be a cash bar from 5-6:30 p.m., dinner from 6:30-8:00 and the program itself from 8:30-9:30. All proceeds go to the MSOE baseball team.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Pat Johnson at the MSOE Athletic Office at (414) 277-7153.

WMSE newly elected officials. Left to right, President Bob Baird, Vice-president Perry Bishop, Secretary Bill Briggs, and Treasurer Scott Miller.

Resignations Spur Elections as RBC Defines Goals

by Ben Johnson

The Radio Broadcasters Club (RBC) of WMSE conducted elections for vice-president, secretary, and treasurer on December 17th in light of some recent top-level resignations. The elections and the founding of general goals for the radio station were the topics of the RBC meeting.

President Chris Jacobson, Secretary Joe Ryan, and Station Manager Ralph Van Zile, individually turned in resignations in early December, sparking the elections. Jacobson's resignation caused Bob Baird to move from vice-president to president. Jeff Jerwig will assume the station manager position, vacated by Van Zile's resignation.

Perry Bishop was elected vice-president, Bill Briggs secretary, and Scott Miller treasurer. Those three victors were winners in surprisingly close elections. The new officers will serve on an interim basis until the RBC holds its annual elections at the end of the winter quarter as scheduled.

The club also documented a set of long-range goals and purposes for the radio station. The manuscript stated, "The primary objective ... is to perform a service to the Milwaukee community by providing open-formated programming of a fresh and innovative nature."

The document also defines their programming as providing a unique, worthwhile, inventive, and thoughtful entertainment, while

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Student Evaluation Considered Reliable

by Jim Nagle

The subject of evaluation of teachers has arisen again at MSOE. On Friday, December 11, an open meeting was held that attempted to make those attending aware of what has been done around the country concerning evaluations, and, more importantly, to explain the reliability and validity of evaluations.

The following are excerpts of the talk given by the meeting's speaker, General Studies Department Chairman Roger Frankowski:

"Two terms come into use here; reliability and validity, and student ratings are reliable. When we talk about reliability, we are pretty much talking about the instruments that are used, the predictability and the consistency. The validity end is a different area.

"Student evaluations of teachers' performances are remarkably consistent with peer evaluations, departmental chairman evaluations, dean evaluations and alumni evaluations.

"As far as learning, this is a very difficult area for those who are looking into it to determine. We obviously want this to be the major consideration. The test of a good teacher should be whether the student learned. The studies indicate moderate correlation between learning and evaluations that take place. In other words, it is not air tight in terms of showing that the student evaluations, in fact, correlate with the actual learning that takes place.

"The great danger of rating systems is quantification. It is awfully easy to start looking at a teacher as a 7.28. An 8.88 teacher who sees himself at the top of the overall scale may not attempt to cause further improvement.

"The common recommendations from those favoring student evaluations are that the sampling be adequate, to watch out for overuse (which causes the student to treat the form with no respect, and the faculty to suffer from morale loss) and to create a form which is on a global basis rather than on a specific basis."

Dean of Academics Francis Cannon, in an interview with the Ingenium, explained the evaluation policy of instructors at MSOE.

"There are eight academic departments in which the department chairperson completes an evaluation worksheet. Following the completion of the evaluation worksheet, the department chairperson sits down with the individual faculty members, reviews the evaluation worksheet, and the faculty member signs it to indicate the review has taken place. Following that process, the department chairpersons forward the worksheets to me. As the Dean of Faculty, I review them for completeness and also to insure that, on a college-wide basis, the various academic departments are performing this function in a standard fashion."

Cannon discussed the subject of sabbatical leave, which the

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delivering educational and informative material to MSOE and to the community. This programming would also provide a dynamic outlet for creativity and artistic expression.

The list of goals expressed WMSE's desire to explore the vast potential of the radio medium, because of its noncommercial nature. The continuing contact between station personnel and the community enhances the high quality of programming that WMSE strives for. It is believed that programming will be entertaining and stimulating, rather than mundane.

The document concluded with, "WMSE will provide programming that combines entertainment, education, and artistic expression."

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